

Count  
#1  
wherein

U is O or a lone pair;

V is O,  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ , or  $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ ;

m and n are each integers from 0 to 7 and  $m+n$  is 0 to 7;

W is CO, COO,  $\text{CONR}^1$ , CSO,  $\text{CSNR}^1$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$ , or  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^1$ , with the provisos that:

a) V is not  $-\text{CH}_2-$  when W is CO,

b)  $m+n$  is 1 or 2 when V is  $-\text{CH}_2-$  and W is  $\text{SO}_2$ ,

c)  $m=n=0$  when V is  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$  and W is CO or  $\text{SO}_2$ ,

d) m is 1 to 7 when V is O, and

e) m is 1 to 3 when V is O, W is CO or  $\text{SO}_2$ , and n is 0;

$\text{A}^1$  is H, lower-alkyl or lower-alkenyl,

$\text{A}^2$  is cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower-alkyl, lower-alkenyl, lower-alkynyl or lower-alkyl optionally substituted with hydroxy, lower-alkoxy or lower-alkoxy-carbonyl, or

$\text{A}^1$  and  $\text{A}^2$  bond together to form  $-\text{A}^1-\text{A}^2-$ , wherein  $-\text{A}^1-\text{A}^2-$  is lower-alkylene or lower-alkenylene, optionally substituted by  $\text{R}^2$ , and one  $-\text{CH}_2-$  group of  $-\text{A}^1-\text{A}^2-$  is optionally replaced by  $\text{NR}^3$ , S, or O;

$\text{A}^3$  and  $\text{A}^4$  are independently hydrogen or lower-alkyl;

$\text{A}^5$  is lower-alkyl optionally substituted with halogen, lower-alkenyl, lower-alkoxy-carbonyl-lower-alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower-alkyl, aryl, aryl-lower-alkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaryl-lower-alkyl;

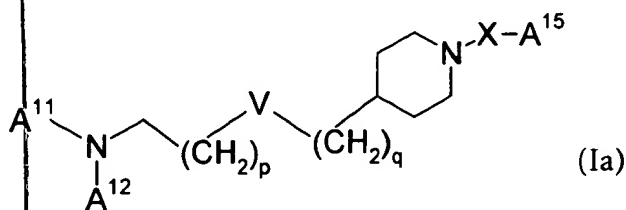
$\text{R}^2$  is lower-alkyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-lower-alkyl, or  $\text{N}(\text{R}^4, \text{R}^5)$ ;

$\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{R}^5$  are independently hydrogen or lower-alkyl; and

When  $\text{A}^1$  is not bonded to  $\text{A}^2$ ,  $\text{A}^1$  and  $\text{A}^3$  optionally bond together to form  $-\text{A}^1-\text{A}^3-$ , wherein  $-\text{A}^1-\text{A}^3-$  is lower-alkylene or lower-alkenylene, optionally substituted by  $\text{R}^2$ , and one  $-\text{CH}_2-$  group of  $-\text{A}^1-\text{A}^3-$  is optionally replaced by  $\text{NR}^3$ , S, or O; or

Cont  
A1  
pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters of the compounds of formula (I).

A2  
24. (Amended) A compound of compounds of formula (Ia)



wherein

V is O, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CH-, or -C≡C-;

p is an integer from 0 to 5;

q 0, 1 or 2;

X is CO, COO, SO<sub>2</sub>, or SO<sub>2</sub>NH, with the provisos that:

a) V is not -CH<sub>2</sub>- when X is CO,

b) p+q is 1 or 2 when V is -CH<sub>2</sub>- and X is SO<sub>2</sub>,

c) p=q=0 when V is -CH=CH- and X is CO or SO<sub>2</sub>,

d) p is 1 to 5 when V is O, and

e) p is 1 to 3 when V is O, X is CO or SO<sub>2</sub>, and q is 0;

A<sup>11</sup> is methyl or ethyl;

A<sup>12</sup> is cyclopropyl, lower-alkenyl, or lower-alkyl optionally substituted with hydroxy or lower-alkoxy; and

A<sup>15</sup> is lower-alkyl optionally substituted with halogen, lower-alkenyl, lower-alkoxy-carbonyl-, lower-alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower-alkyl, aryl, aryl-lower-alkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaryl-lower-alkyl; or

Cont  
A2  
pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters of the compounds of formula (Ia).

25. (Amended) The compound of claim 24, wherein A<sup>12</sup> is cyclopropyl, lower alkenyl of 2 to 4 carbon atoms, lower alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, lower alkoxy of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, lower alkyl substituted with a lower-alkoxy having a total of 2 to 4 carbon atoms, or lower alkyl substituted with hydroxy.

A3  
43. (Amended) The compound of claim 42, selected from the group consisting of allyl-{4-[1-(4-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yloxy]-butyl}-methyl-amine and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

44. (Amended) The compound of claim 42, selected from the group consisting of allyl-{3-[1-(4-bromo-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yloxy]-propyl}-methyl-amine and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

A4  
47. (Amended) The compound of claim 46, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid butylamide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

A5  
49. (Amended) The compound of claim 48, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid cyclohexylmethyl-amide, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

A6  
51. (Amended) The compound of claim 50, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

A7  
53. (Amended) The compound of claim 52, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (4-chloro-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

54. (Amended) The compound of claim 52, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (4-bromo-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

55. (Amended) The compound of claim 52, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(cyclopropyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (3,4-difluoro-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

56. (Amended) The compound of claim 52, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (2,5-difluoro-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

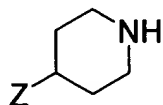
A8  
58. (Amended) The compound of claim 57, selected from the group consisting of 4-[6-(allyl-methyl-amino)-hexyloxy]-piperidine-1-sulfonic acid (4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-amide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

61. (Amended) The compound of claim 60, selected from the group consisting of methyl-propyl-{4-[1-(4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-butyl}-amine and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

68. (Amended) The compound of claim 67, selected from the group consisting of methyl-propyl-{3-[1-(4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-prop-2-ynyl}-amine and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

71. (Amended) The compound of claim 67, selected from the group consisting of ethyl-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-{4-[1-(4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]-but-3-ynyl}-amine and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

73. (Amended) A process for the preparation of compounds according to claim 1, which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein Z is  $(A^1, A^2)N-C(A^3, A^4)-(CH_2)_m-V-(CH_2)_n-$ ,  $X-CH_2-(CH_2)_m-V-(CH_2)_n-$ ,  $HO(CH_2)_n-$ , or  $HOOC(CH_2)_n-$ , wherein X is chlorine, bromine, iodine, methanesulfonyl, or toluenesulfonyl, and  $A^1, A^2, A^3, A^4, V, m$  and  $n$  are as defined in claim 1, with  $ClSO_2-A^5$ ,  $ClCOO-A^5$ ,  $ClCSO-A^5$ ,  $OCN-A^5$ ,  $SCN-A^5$ ,  $HOOC-A^5$ , or  $ClSO_2NR^1-A^5$ , wherein  $A^5$  is as defined in claim 1.

75. (Amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases in a mammal which are associated with 2,3-oxidosqualene: lanosterol cyclase (OSC) such as